

MINUTES OF THE 34TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FEDERATION OF NEW YORK STATE BIRD CLUBS

The 34th Annual Meeting of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs convened at 2 p.m. Friday, 25 September 1981, at the 10th floor Ballroom of the Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse, NY, Martin Borko presiding. Roll call was taken. Twenty-nine clubs were represented. A quorum was declared. The membership report was given by Myrna Hemmerick as filed. There is a total of 665 members. Accepted as presented. It was suggested that the Mountain Bird Club be contacted to join. The treasurer's report was circulated by John Forness. He pointed out the donation of stock by Joe Taylor, amounting to a little under \$3,000, is earmarked for the Atlas project. Report accepted as filed. John Forness announced that the books had been audited and found to be in good order by Irving Cantor and Don Clarke. Manny Levine reported the approval of the Executive Committee for expenditures for a 1971-80 *Kingbird Index*. This has been compiled by Dorothy McIlroy and will be coming out soon. The waterfowl census report was given by Walton Sabin who reported 170,833 birds counted in 1981, 28.6% below 1980. 1982 dates will be 9 through 17 January, target day 10 January. Susan Drennan announced that *Where to Find Birds in New York State* is now finished and will be available very shortly. Martin Borko asked clubs to send membership lists to Syracuse University Press to be used in soliciting sales. Connie Wilkins reported that 865 copies of *The Kingbird* are sent out. Report accepted and filed. The president's report given by Martin Borko was accepted as attached. The nominating committee report was presented by Steve Dempsey. The following officers were unanimously elected: President—Morgan Jones; Vice-President—Charles Smith; Recording Secretary—Anne Clarridge; Corresponding Secretary—Constance Wilkins; Treasurer—John Forness. Morgan Jones then assumed chairmanship of meeting which adjourned to reconvene Saturday, 26 September, 9:30 a.m., same place.

Allen H. Benton announced that a full bibliography report has been printed in the most recent *Kingbird*. Charles Smith reported on his attendance at the fall meeting of the New York State Conservation Council in Watertown. This was an intensive, three-day meeting. Charles Smith finds the group the strongest lobbying group of its kind in the state, considers that there are many overlapping areas of interest with FNYSSBC (acid rain, throw-away bottle control) and recommends that the FNYSSBC continue its affiliation with them, keeping more aware of their activities and working through them when possible. Steve Dempsey circulated a report of the year's pelagic trips. Accepted. The next trip will be 28 November 1981. It was recommended that next year's early summer trip take place in late May. Gene McCaffery of the DEC discussed the problems the nongame program faces in view of the disappearance of grant and aid funds for endangered species. The Atlas program is among the highest priority programs and will not be touched. NYS Bald Eagle Program will be continued out of special federal funds. He urged the Federation to move strongly with other nongame interest groups to support the nongame tax checkoff as it appears now in the Eckert Bill. Paul DeBenedictis, chairman of NYSARC, reported on two meetings of NYSARC, 16 August and 22 August. Tom Davis has been reappointed to the committee. All reports are now being acknowledged upon receipt. Cataloguing is now by year of receipt, not year of observation. All records from previous years are resolved. In 1980 there were 78 reports. Currently NYSARC recognizes 423 species as having been recorded in New York. Gordon Meade, chairman of the Atlas effort, thanked the over 1,000 volunteers and especially the regional coordinators, R. Andrie, R. Spahn, D. McIlroy, J. Lehman, D. Crumb, R. & J. Walker, Mike Peterson, R. Guthrie, B. Weissman and G. Raynor. He also stressed the enormous support DEC is giving the program. DEC and FNYSSBC are working out an agreement as to which group is responsible for what activities, who will own the data and other similar questions. Three newsletters a year are going out. A nominating committee for officers for 1982, consisting of Martin Borko, Mary Ann Sunderlin and Alice Jones, was

duly elected. An auditing committee of Richard Sloss and Steve Dempsey was duly elected. They have authority to contact a CPA of their choice for review. Morgan Jones appointed Liz Martinec as resolution chairman for the meeting and the banquet.

RESOLUTIONS

The following three resolutions were presented, discussed and unanimously passed:

1. **FEDERATION SUPPORT OF BILL TO INCREASE HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEES AND TO PROVIDE FOR A STATE INCOME TAX CHECKOFF SYSTEM TO INCREASE THE STATE CONSERVATION FUND (S.6023B by Sen. Eckert)**

Whereas, the primary source of revenue for the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation's Fish and Wildlife programs is the Conservation Fund, composed mostly of hunting and fishing license fees, and whereas, these license fees have not been increased since 1975, despite rising fish and wildlife management program costs due to inflation and the addition of new, including nongame wildlife, programs, and whereas, supplementary federal funding of nongame programs, particularly those funded under the Endangered Species Act, have been totally eliminated for fiscal year 1982, and whereas, continued implementation of existing nongame and endangered species projects will for the foreseeable future depend on State revenue, and whereas, a bill (S.6023B by Sen. Eckert) has been introduced in the NYS Legislature to increase the conservation fund by raising hunting and fishing license fees and by providing for an income tax checkoff system, and whereas, the income tax checkoff proposal, if accepted, will be used largely to support nongame fish and wildlife programs of concern to the Federation of NYS Bird Clubs, *therefore, be it resolved that:* The Executive Committee of the FNYSCB and all of its members write letters of support or otherwise contact members of the NYS Legislature to express support for Sen. Eckert's bill, S.6023-B, prior to its being considered during a special session of the Legislature this October.

2. **ACID RAIN**

Whereas, it is well documented that there is a significant increase in the acidity of precipitation in New York State due to human activity, and whereas, said precipitation is known to have widespread and detrimental effects on the natural ecosystems of this State, and whereas, natural ecosystems thus affected are less able to cope with other man-caused or natural insults to their proper functioning, *therefore be it resolved that* the FNYSCB in annual session assembled hereby commend the Governor and State Legislature and the agencies under their jurisdiction, in the action taken to correct this problem and urge further persistent legal, diplomatic and scientific efforts to restore acceptable levels of acidity in precipitation in this State.

3. **GYPSY MOTH CONTROL**

The Federation does not believe the gypsy moth has a long-term negative impact on the forest lands of New York State. The Federation does not believe that aerial spraying of chemicals is warranted for the occasional population outbreaks. It believes that drift of spray and the potential buildup of toxic chemicals present additional dangers. The Federation does not believe that public funds should be used to protect private lands against the gypsy moth.

There was no old business. The 1982 Annual Meeting site was announced by Shelley Vakay as Riverhead, L.I., with the host club being Moriches Bay Audubon Society, on 1, 2 and 3 October. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Harriet Marsi, Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

During the past year the Executive Committee met three times: 1) 8 Nov. at Delmar; 2) 11 April at Binghamton; 3) 11 July at Cornell. New members to the Executive Board this year were Carole Slatkin and Walter Klabunde. The five original members of NYSARC continue to serve the Federation:

Ken Able	term expires 1/1/86
Tom Davis	term expires 1/1/85
Paul DeBenedictis	term expires 1/1/84
Robert Andrie	term expires 1/1/83
Robert Paxton	term expires 1/1/82

A recommended modification of NYSARC procedure; namely, an acknowledgment post card has been implemented. The Executive Committee changed the number of Lillian Stoner awards from 2 to 3, and from \$75 to \$100 dollars for this year. Additionally, upon the recommendation of Dick Sloss, Federation funds have been transferred from traditional saving and certificate accounts into Scudder Funds which are paying 17% at the moment.

The Bylaws were modified, with your approval, to permit the Executive Committee to change our dues structure as rampant inflation necessitates, without the fear of running in the red due to old Bylaw time restrictions. After our rate structure change, 10,000 membership brochures were printed and over 4,000 already distributed. The Federation took and more importantly, expressed its support* as well as taking a stand favoring increases in hunting, fishing and trapping license fees. Charlie Smith and Ed Reilly drafted, and the Executive Committee approved, a position statement on the introduction of exotic species. Mike Peterson presented the Federation Executive Committee's approved position at hearings related to the mining of sphagnum in the Adirondacks. He was joined in this endeavor by Don Timmons of High Peaks Audubon Society.

The long-awaited project of Susan Drennan's *Where to Find Birds in New York State* is coming to fruition and, as this project comes to a conclusion, the Atlas project, under the direction of Gordon Meade and Charlie Smith, moves into full swing. The Atlas project is successful due to the cooperation of the state DEC; particularly Bob Miller, Janet Carroll and Gene McCaffery.

My job, for the past two years, has been easy due to the legacy of experience offered by members of the Executive Committee, Standing Committee Members, regional *Kingbird* editors, regional Atlas coordinators, and pelagic field trip coordinators.

I would like to conclude by thanking all of them, with a special thanks for his many years of service to the Federation to Al Bell. Thanks, Al!

Thank you all.

Martin Borko
President

* Federal and State nongame monies.